CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for configuring a set of applications in a medical imaging system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving system user identifying information;

using the identifying information to determine the user's preferred
5 applications;

determining which of the preferred applications are already booted up, the already booted up preferred applications being a first subset and the other preferred applications being a second subset; and

booting up the second subset of preferred applications.

2. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of, after the step of using, identifying non-preferred applications that are booted and disabling the non-preferred applications.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the step of disabling includes turning off the non-preferred applications.

4. The method of claim 2 also for use with a database including user-identifying information correlated with preferred applications and wherein the step of using includes correlating the identifying information with the preferred applications.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving includes providing at least one field for entering user identifying information on a display and, when information is provided via the field, retrieving the information therefrom.

6   The method of claim 1 wherein at least one critical application is critical to operation of at least one of the preferred applications and wherein the method further includes the steps of, for each preferred application, determining if there are any critical applications and for critical applications

5   determining which of the critical applications is booted up, the booted up critical applications being a first subset of critical applications and all other critical applications being a second subset of critical applications, the method further including booting up all second subset critical applications.

7   The method of claim 1 also for configuring the user preferred applications, the method further including the steps of, providing an interface for receiving user information and preferences, receiving user preferences and related user information via the interface and storing the user preferred

5   applications correlated with the user information for subsequent use.

8   The method of claim 7 wherein there is at least one critical application that is critical to operation of at least one user specified preferred application and wherein the method further includes the steps of, for each specified preferred application, determining if there are any critical applications

5   and, where there is at least one critical application, adding the critical application to the preferred applications for the user.

9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the system includes a processor for running the applications and where the method is also for modifying the booted applications as a function of processor usage and, wherein, the method further includes the steps of, after the applications are booted and during

5   system use, monitoring processor usage and, when processor usage exceeds a threshold level, disabling at least one of the booted applications.

10.   A processor for use in configuring a set of applications in a medical imaging system, the processor running a pulse sequencing program to perform steps comprising:

receiving system user identifying information;

5   using the identifying information to determine the user's preferred applications;

determining which of the preferred applications are already booted up, the already booted up preferred applications being a first subset and the other preferred applications being a second subset; and

10   booting up the second subset of preferred preferences.

11.   The processor of claim 10 wherein the pulse sequencing program causes the processor to further perform the steps of, after the step of using, identifying non-preferred applications that are booted and disabling the non-preferred applications.

12.   The processor of claim 11 wherein the step of disabling includes turning off the non-preferred applications.

13.   The processor of claim 11 also for use with a database including user-identifying information correlated with preferred applications and wherein the step of using includes correlating the identifying information with the preferred applications.

14. The processor of claim 10 wherein at least one critical application is critical to operation of at least one of the preferred applications and wherein the program further causes the processor to perform the steps of, for each preferred application, determining if there are any critical applications and for

5   critical applications determining which of the critical applications is booted up, the booted up critical applications being a first subset of critical applications and all other critical applications being a second subset of critical applications, the processor further including booting up all second subset critical applications.

15. The processor of claim 10 also for specifying the user preferred applications, the program further causing the processor to perform the steps of, providing an interface for receiving user information and preferences, receiving user preferences and related user information via the interface and

5   storing the user preferred applications correlated with the user information for subsequent use.

16. The processor of claim 15 wherein there is at least one critical application that is critical to operation of at least one user specified preferred application and wherein the processor further includes the steps of, for each specified preferred application, determining if there are any critical applications

5   and, where there is at least one critical application, adding the critical application to the preferred applications for the user.

17.   The processor of claim 10 wherein the system includes a
processor for running the applications and where the processor is also for
modifying the booted applications as a function of processor usage and,
wherein, the processor further includes the steps of, after the applications are
5   booted and during system use, monitoring processor usage and, when
processor usage exceeds a threshold level, disabling at least one of the
booted applications.

18.   A method for configuring a set of applications in a medical imaging system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving system user identifying information;

using the identifying information to determine the user's preferred
5   applications;

determining which of the preferred applications are already booted up, the already booted up preferred applications being a first subset and the other preferred applications being a second subset;

booting up the second subset of preferred preferences;

10   identifying non-preferred applications that are booted; and

disabling the non-preferred applications.

19.   A method for specifying a set of user preferred applications in a medical imaging system wherein at least one critical application is critical to operation of at least one other application, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving system user identifying information;

5   receiving user preference information indicating at least one user preferred application;

storing the user identifying information correlated with the user preferred applications for subsequent system configuration upon booting;

determining if there are any applications that are critical to the

10   user preferred applications; and

where an application is critical to a user-preferred application, adding the critical application to the user stored preferred applications correlated with the user.

20.   An apparatus for configuring a set of applications in a medical imaging system, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving system user identifying information;

means for using the identifying information to determine the
5   user's preferred applications;

means for determining which of the preferred applications are already booted up, the already booted up preferred applications being a first subset and the other preferred applications being a second subset; and

means for booting up the second subset of preferred
10   applications.

21.   The apparatus of claim 20 further including means for identifying non-preferred applications that are booted and means for disabling the non-preferred applications.